

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 30, 2013

Mr. Roy Wright  
Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Wright:

We the undersigned are increasingly concerned about the risks our states, communities, and constituents face as a result of our rapidly warming climate. Events over the past year have made the potential risks even more evident.

Superstorm Sandy is the most obvious example, but the nation faces more than just storms. Over the last year we have seen large swaths of the nation gripped by a devastating drought that caused disruptions and major losses to the nation's farmers and ranchers and helped contribute to the active fire season in the West. The drought was so acute that water flow in the Mississippi River dropped to levels that could not support the transportation of goods and commodities. This summer has brought numerous storms that caused damage and loss of life along the eastern seaboard as well as in areas of the Midwest. This is the second year in a row that the federal government has run through its budget for fighting wildfires and will be forced to borrow funds from other accounts, including prevention.

The increasing frequency and severity of events such as hurricanes, storms, floods, droughts, extreme heat, wildfires and other weather related natural disasters are all consistent with what the scientific community has been predicting as a result of climate change.

The costs associated with these climate-influenced natural disasters are also climbing. This year, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) added climate change to its annual list of high-risk areas, citing the government's "fiscal exposure" to climate change risks. An NRDC report underscores this GAO finding, calculating that U.S. taxpayers spent nearly \$100 billion in response to climate-related natural disasters in 2012. The GAO also noted in an April 2013 report that federal agencies are doing a poor job of supporting state and local government efforts to integrate climate change into infrastructure planning.

In his climate action plan released June 25<sup>th</sup>, President Obama directs federal agencies to support climate-resilient investments, including through agency grants, technical assistance, and other programs. Considering the President's directive, and given that climate change poses such dire risks to our communities and the fiscal health of the nation we respectfully request that your

office provide us with information about how the Federal Emergency Management Agency is helping manage and minimize these risks.

We therefore request that you provide our offices with a written response to the questions below.

How is FEMA implementing its statutory obligation under the Stafford Act to approve only those State Hazard Mitigation Plans (SHMPs) that adequately consider natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities, in light of the fact that climate change is projected to have significant impact on each?

How is FEMA ensuring that climate change risks are evaluated as part of its review of SHMPs, given that the regulations require SHMPs to include an overview of 'the probability of future hazard events'?

What guidance has FEMA issued to states on how climate change should be considered in the development of their State Hazard Mitigation Plans?


Which states does FEMA believe are best accounting for the impacts of climate change in their State Hazard Mitigation Plans? How are those state accounting for the impacts of climate change in those plans?

What is the total amount of grant funding that FEMA has issued to states in each of the past 5 years? Who were the top state recipients for each of FEMA's disaster preparedness grant categories? Do those states consider the projected impacts of climate change in their SHMPs?


Has FEMA ever analyzed how it could reduce its disaster recovery and rebuilding costs and states' risks through improved pre-disaster planning?

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to help communities around the country become more resilient to the increased extreme weather events that will likely come as a result of climate change.


Sincerely,

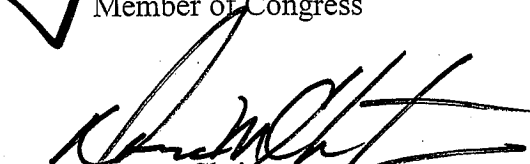
  
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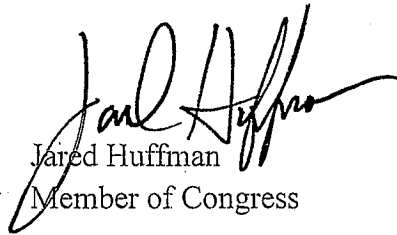
  
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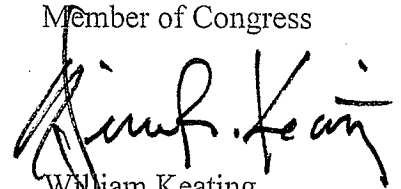
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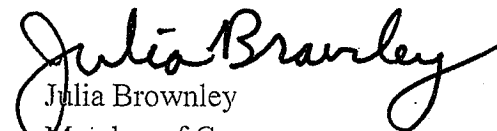
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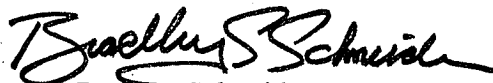
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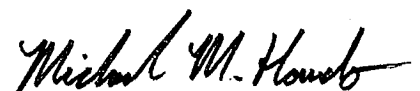
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Cc: Mr. Craig Fugate, Administrator of FEMA

Mr. David Miller, Associate Administrator of the Federal Insurance and Mitigation  
Administration